

AGENDA
McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
May 6, 2009, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Reverend Bob Eick, Methodist Minister, Thomson, GA

APPROVALS
Agenda (Current)
Minutes (Regular Mtg. 04-21-09)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proclamation – “Sr. Citizen of The Year” (Chairman Newton)
2. Census 2010 Efforts & Activities-Need Elected Official to Chair “Complete Count Committee” for McDuffie (Chairman Newton)
3. Status Report of County Verizon Wireless Phone Service/Contract (Kelly Evans)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO-Property Tax & Mobile Home Digest – April 2009 (Sandra Whitaker)
2. Possible Joint City/County Finance/Administrative Services Office (Chairman Newton)
3. Consideration of Contracting the Service of Jimmy Whitaker as “Interim Finance Director” (Chairman Newton)
4. Dr. Wiley’s Request for \$7800 for Increased Mal-Practice Ins. Premium for 2008 Due To County Inmate Claims (Chairman Newton)
5. Alcohol Bev. License: Habanero’s Mexican Grill, LLC 1435 Washington Rd., Thomson, Registered Agent: Miquel Chavez (Chairman Newton)
6. Alcohol Bev. License: “One Day” License, United Way Golf Classic Sponsored by the Knox Foundation , 2660 Twin Pine Rd., Belle Meade Country Club, Held April 27, 2009 (Chairman Newton)
7. Appointment – DFACS (Chairman Newton)
8. Proposed Mission Statement (Commissioner Jopling)
9. Reinstatement of City/County Human Relations Committee (Commissioner Favors)
10. Fire/Rescue Auto-Aid Agreement With Warren County (Fire Chief Tanner)
11. Proposed Resolution to Impose a Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Charge (Phase 2) in McDuffie County (Tracy Neal)
12. Proposed Resolution to Impose 911 Charge on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Connections (Tracy Neal)
13. Fire Dept. In-House Fire Extinguisher Inspection & Maintenance Program (Chief Tanner)

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning May 6, 2009, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie L. Wilson, Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Paul W. McCorkle, Commissioner
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Dept.
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Wanda Sisson, Tax Assessor's Office
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Steven Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Ronnie Williamson, Sheriff's Dept.
Tracy Neal, Sheriff's Dept, E911
Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste
Bob Howard, Director, Recreation
Mindy Carney, Zoning/License

MEDIA REPRESENTATION:

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

OTHERS:

Administrator
Eight (8) citizens attended

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Tom Kerr, Minister, First United Methodist Church, offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Bob Eick, scheduled Methodist Minister, was unable to attend as he had a seriously ill family member .

APPROVALS

Agenda

Commissioner Wilson asked that Items 2 & 3 in NEW BUSINESS be deleted from the Agenda. Chairman Newton asked they be left on the Agenda until those specific items were addressed. A motion to approve the current Agenda was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2009 was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proclamation – "Sr. Citizen of The Year": Chairman Newton recognized Mrs. Dot Cofer as the chosen "Sr. Citizen of The Year" for McDuffie County and presented her with a Proclamation reflecting this honor. Ms. Cofer was present with her closest family members and gratefully acknowledged this recognition. The media made pictures of the occasion and the Proclamation itself is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

**A CORRECTED PROCLAMATION
WILL GO IN THIS SPACE WHEN
WHEN FINALIZED.**

-2-

2. Census 2010 Efforts & Activities-Need Elected Official to Chair "Complete Count Committee" for McDuffie County: Chairman Newton announced that the U.S. Census Bureau is seeking an elected official to chair the overall "2010 census" participation in McDuffie County.

Commissioner Favors offered to co-chair the committee with an elected official from the City of Thomson. This was agreed upon by all commissioners; no motion was required.

3. **Status Report of County Verizon Wireless Phone Service/Contract:** Chairman Newton asked Kelly Evans, Director of the IT Department to present a report on the County Verizon Wireless Phone Service/Contract.

Kelly reported that that the system itself is functioning as anticipated with a great deal of success; most department heads seem to like and are adjusting to the system very well.

A copy of the report is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

Verizon will be replacing the “Push To Talk” phones at later date which should correct the current “flaw” of a too low alert tone.

4. **Announcement – The Second Annual Golf Classic for the local Boys & Girls Club was held on Tuesday, May 5, at Belle Meade Country Club. \$8-9,000 was raised in support of the local Club.**
5. **Announcement – CSRA EOA Bd., Meeting, Julian Smith Casino, Augusta, Honoring Mrs. Clara West.**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **ER & ACO-Property Tax & Mobile Home Digest – April 2009:** Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.

Sandra stated that an increase in the amount of \$3766.38 revenue is due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. Property Tax increase is due to Personal Property Audits; values were upheld by the s decision resulting in release of temporary billing.

Mobile Home Digest decreased in the amount of \$39.91. The tax decrease is due to several mobile homes having homestead status change; value change due to settling of several appeals; new owner for mobile home resulting in deleting of two years of taxes; mobile home moved from county in 2008.

After discussion, a motion was made by Favors to accept and approve the report as presented; McCorkle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Possible Joint City/County Finance/Administrative Services Office:** Chairman Newton presented matter and asked for action.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to postpone the matter indefinitely; the motion died due to the lack of a second. A second motion was made by Favors to not combine the departments and to continue operating the McDuffie County Finance Department and the City of Thomson Finance Department “as is”; motion was

-3-

seconded by Wilson and passed 3 to 2. Commissioner Wilson asked for a “roll call vote” at this time.

ROLL CALL VOTE		
<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
Favors	Newton	(stated that he would like to hear from
Organizational	Wilson	Committee on the matter)
McCorkle	Jopling	

3. **Consideration of Contracting the Service of Jimmy Whitaker as “Interim Finance Director”:**

Chairman Newton advised that Mr. Jimmy Whitaker’s resignation was effective Monday, May 4, 2009 but until a permanent Finance Director can be hired, the County Manager and he were recommending that Mr. Whitaker be retained as an “Interim Finance Director” and continue the normal day- to- day operation of the Finance Department.

After discussion and agreeing on a 20-40 hour work week, \$30.00 per hour, no employee benefits with the exception of Workman’s Comp and the Agreement can be

terminated at any time by either party, a motion was made by McCorkle to approve this recommendation; motion was seconded by Jopling and passed 3 to 2 with Chairman Newton voting to break the “tie vote”. At this time, Commissioner Wilson asked for a “Roll Call” vote.

Roll Call Vote	
Yes	No
McCorkle	Wilson
Jopling	Favors
Newton	

4. **Dr. Wiley’s Request for \$7800.00 for Increased Mal-Practice Insurance For 2008 Due To County Inmate Claims:** Chairman Newton presented this matter and recommended that the request be approved contingent upon the Sheriff’s confirmation. A motion was made by Favors to approve the recommended request from Dr. Wiley in the amount of \$7800 with funds coming from Contingency; motion was seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.
5. **Alcohol Beverage License – Habanero’s Mexican Grill LLC, 1435 Washington Rd., Thomson, GA, Registered Agent: Miquel Chavez:** Chairman Newton presented this matter and asked Ms. Carney for confirmation that all requirements had been met. After noting that inspections and other requirements had been met, Chairman Newton recommended approval of the application. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed 3 to 1 with Rev. Favors abstaining for religious reasons.
6. **Alcohol Beverage License – “One Day” License, United Way Golf Classic Sponsored by the Knox Foundation, held at Belle Meade Country Club:** Chairman Newton presented this application noting with Ms. Carney that all requirements had been met and recommended approval. After discussion, a motion to approve this recommendation was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed 3 to 1 with Rev. Favors abstaining for religious reasons.
7. **Appointment – DFACS:** Chairman Newton announced that he had received notice from DFACS that Ms. Helen Williams’ appointment on the Board would expire June 30, 2009. Also, Ms. Williams had indicated that she would like to remain on the Board and he recommended that she be reappointed for another 5-year term. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.
8. **Proposed Mission Statement:** Chairman Newton asked Commissioner Jopling to address this matter.

-4-

Jopling stated that the Organization Structure Committee had asked for Mission Statements from its membership earlier and that three (3) had been received; Phyllis Wheeler, Don Norton and Kelly Evans. The one written by Ms. Phyllis Wheeler wrote is being recommended for the county employees and is copied below:

“It is the mission of the employees of McDuffie County to provide honest, sincere and dedicated service to the citizens of the county; to foster an atmosphere of commitment in assisting, aiding and implementing those services which benefit the county as a whole; to show no partiality in providing any service; and to promote a spirit of cooperation in all departments”.

The Mission Statements from Don Norton and Kelly Evans are to be combined and consolidated and will be taken up at a later date.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jopling to approve the Mission Statement as written for county employees by Ms. Wheeler as copied above; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

9. **Reinstatement of City/County Human Relations Committee:** Chairman Newton asked Commissioner Favors to address this matter.

Commissioner Favors stated that he would like to re-activate the Human Relations Commission which had been mute since July 2006. He emphasized that the Board of Education should have an active role on this committee and it should be available to all work related problems from all industries within McDuffie County. This matter will be discussed in more detail again when the Reorganization Committee recommends the make-up of this Board.

A motion to approve this action was made by Favors, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

10. Fire/Rescue Auto-Aid Agreement With Warren County: Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to present this agreement.

Bruce presented and recommended the approval of this agreement noting that this would insure that in the event of a fire related emergency, the closest station would be dispatched regardless of jurisdictional boundaries and also enhances sharing of resources. The fiscal impact to the County would involve increased fuel use and possibly equipment and vehicle maintenance due to an increase in responses and distance traveled.

After discussion a motion to approve this Auto-Aid Agreement With Warren County was made by Favors, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

11. Proposed Resolution to Impose a Wireless Enhanced 9-11 Charge (Phase 2 in McDuffie County): Chairman Newton asked Tracy Neal to address this matter. County Manager Don Norton stated that a Public Hearing was required for this Resolution and also the Resolution named in Item 12. As a result of this information, Chairman Newton stated that this and Item 12 would be placed on the Agenda for the Board of Commission at a later date to allow for the scheduling of the Public Hearing.

12. Proposed Resolution to Impose 911 Charge on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Connections: Public Hearing is required before any action can be taken on it.

13. Fire Dept. In-House Fire Extinguisher Inspection & Maintenance Program: Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to address this matter.

Bruce stated that the object of this program is to reduce the cost of the fire extinguisher annual inspections, refilling and replacement. The total set up cost is estimated at \$2200 for the equipment, supplies and training and this amount will be reduced after the initial set-up whereas the current vendor is charging \$2900/year "plus" on average.

-5-

After discussion, a motion to approve this In-House Fire Extinguisher Inspection and Maintenance Program was made by Favors, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk

